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The Philippine Islands and their People. A Record of Personal Observation and Experience. By DEAN C. WORCESTER, Assistant Professor of Zoölogy, University of Michigan. New York, The Macmillan Company, 1899. — xix, 529 pp.

In the Old World, where all activities are more specialized than with us, and where political activity is supposed to demand particularly thorough training, the list of President McKinley's Philippine commissioners may well have excited a degree of surprise ; for the commission is made up of one ex-diplomatist and four persons whose callings are non-political — a sailor, a soldier, a philosopher and a zoölogist. In this country, however, the appointments were generally regarded as excellent, and the selection of the author of *The Philippine Islands* gave especial satisfaction.

Professor Worcester, in fact, not only shows a remarkably thorough acquaintance with the islands and their people, but he displays throughout his book that political instinct which seems to be congenital among Americans. Scattered through the narrative are pictures of Spanish colonial administration that tell us more than we could learn from a shelf full of laws and official reports ; descriptions of the people, that enable us to judge for ourselves how far they are capable of organizing and maintaining self-government or any other kind of government ; shrewd glimpses into the workings of the minds of savage Tagbanuas and Mangyans, barbarian Moros and semi-civilized Visayans and Tagalogs ; and much valuable information about the economic resources of the islands and the present methods of exploiting them. And the devices by which the author succeeded in escaping Spanish red tape, in winning the confidence and support of outlaws, and in inspiring in savages a superstitious veneration for his supernatural powers, shows that he is by birthright, not only a good politician, but an excellent diplomatist.

The real value of a book is sometimes obscured by its timeliness ; and students of the political sciences, like the students of other sciences, are often slow in recognizing the worth of contributions from men outside their own special *Fach*. It is, therefore, worth while to note that Professor Worcester's book, although timely, is likely to be recognized as standard ; that, although written by a zoölogist, it does not deal with zoölogy ; and that, although primarily a popular work, — and an eminently readable one, at that, — it contains a great deal of information which the political student should not ignore.

MUNROE SMITH.